

Northside Drive Corridor Improvement Study

Project Need and Purpose

Northside Drive (SR 3) is one of the busiest and most vital transportation corridors in the City of Atlanta. The road serves freight traffic from coming to and from I-75 and I-20; commuter traffic to and from Downtown Atlanta; local traffic from the residents and businesses in the area; student travel for multiple institutes of higher learning, and pedestrians and cyclists. Northside Drive has a variety of land uses, including single-family homes, apartments and condos, college campuses, local churches and businesses, large retail areas, and major venues such as the Georgia Dome and Georgia World Congress Center.

Over the past several years, Northside Drive has seen several major development and redevelopment initiatives launched by the City of Atlanta, the private sector, and other institutions. Examples include:

- New residential and commercial developments;
- Construction of the new Falcons Stadium;
- Planning for the Downtown Atlanta Multimodal Passenger Terminal (MMPT);
- Campus planning for the Atlanta University Center; and
- Extensions of the Atlanta Streetcar, among others.

All of these changes, along with growing freight, vehicular, and bicycle/pedestrian traffic, have posed challenges to travel in the corridor and created impacts upon the local community. For this reason, GDOT has launched the Northside Drive Corridor Improvements Study. GDOT will study Northside Drive between I-75 to the north and I-20/Whitehall Street to the south, and determine the best ways to improve traffic flow and create a safer environment for pedestrians and cyclists, while supporting redevelopment and preserving community character along the corridor. Some improvements that may be considered include connecting Northside Drive directly with I-20 to ease congestion; redesigning key intersections to improve safety and traffic flow; providing better access to transit services; and installing or repairing sidewalks and bike lanes. GDOT envisions that these series of improvements will lead to the creation of a vibrant, multimodal corridor that meets the needs of the overall community as well as users of the road.

